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derstanding on his part.³³ Nor will it be necessary to re-enter upon a discussion of the question of method, after it has been seen whether the method for which Valentin claims so much has led him. It may, however, be remarked that the fall of the Homunculus-Helena theory does not only discomfit Valentin's dramatic interpretation of the second and third acts, but that it also gives a severe shock to the dramatic fabric which he has constructed for the whole of Faust. Had it not been for the reverent preservation of the documents which show the gradual progress and development of Goethe's work, the Homunculus-Helena theory might have continued for many more years to hold a large proportion of the readers and students of Faust under the magic spell with which the brilliant style and the assurance of its originator have invested it.

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A PREPOSITIONAL HITCH.

"Is *on* or *of* right in this place?"

"Well?"

"... the pleasant store of learning that they got when they read to each other *on* winter nights ..."—Do you want to say *on* or *of*?"

"I want to conform to usage."

"That's why I asked," she said.

"In such a place I usually say *on*, if I use a preposition at all."

"*Of* seems more natural to me."

"Perhaps I have something," and I went to a box of mems.—"Here is something, but not much."—Then I marked five quotations, (*a*), (*b*), etc., and laid them on the table one after another, with little pauses between, waiting for comments.

(*a*) "... its quaint, gray, castled city where the bells clash of a Sunday ..."—Robert Louis Stevenson, *The Silverado Squatters*, p. 63.

"I thought so."

³³ As Valentin might have inferred from the absence of quotation marks, it was not intended to give his views literally, but only in substance and much condensed. See also the misunderstandings in the interpretations of the luminosity of the phosphorescent atoms (*I. c.*, col. 439) and of the passage referring to the completion of the Classical Walpurgis-Night (cols. 442 and 443). In the latter place, Valentin adds a learned discourse on Goethe's use of 'ins Unendliche,' without noticing that the passage in question does not contain that expression at all.

(*b*) "... when old Mr. Crewe, the curate ... delivered inaudible sermons on a Sunday ..."—George Eliot, *Scenes of Clerical Life* (Edinburgh, cabinet ed.), vol. ii, p. 51.

"Oh!"

(*c*) "... it was a correct thing to be seen at church of a Sunday ..."—Thackeray, *Pendennis* (London, 1869), vol. ii, ch. ii, p. 18.

"Two to one."

(*d*) "My brother had arrived from Persia only a few hours before. This was on the Tuesday."—J. H. Newnan, *Apologia*, ch. i.

"Oh, that doesn't count. That's different."

(*e*) "When they hear that up at the hall they play tennis on Sunday afternoons."—Augustus Jessopp, *The Trials of a Country Parson* (London, 1890), p. 39.

"One way is just as good as the other," and her eyes turned to the MS. again.

"It's a pity that people who write about good English haven't reached that conclusion in a lot of cases. But, my dear, you got there on too slight support.—In fact, you jumped. When there are only two conclusions to choose from, you are just as likely to be right as not—if you don't care which is which."

"But there were *four* here."

"Prove it."

"(1), (*a*) might be right and (*b*) wrong; (2), (*b*) might be right and (*a*) wrong; (3), (*a*) and (*b*) might both be right; (4), (*a*) and (*b*) might both be wrong,—yes, and (5), (*a*) and (*b*) might be right or wrong according to the way you used them,—and half-a-dozen more, for aught I know."

"Let's go on with the work. Publishers don't care about such things."

"Men's minds are different from women's minds."

"That doesn't fret them."

"Women are right a great deal oftener than men are, and it doesn't take them half so long either."

"There isn't any place for that opinion in this book."—(Men must never doubt the superiority of men.)

Naturally, after that, one got together more examples that would throw light on the prepositional question at issue. Such success as has been reached in stringing them on a discriminative theory is shown below.

When an act or occurrence is *not* thought of as customary, *on* is used (or understood) before

the day, afternoon, evening, etc., on which the act or occurrence is said to have taken place; as, *they were married on a Wednesday; we arrived at Richmond on a rainy Saturday afternoon.*

"It was between three and four o'clock, on a fine morning in August, that, after a ten hours' journey from Frankfort, I awoke at the Weimar station."—George Eliot, *Essays and Leaves from a Note-Book*, 2d. ed. (Edinburgh, 1884), p. 290.

"Some say that he [St. Martin] died on a Sunday, at midnight." J. H. Newman, *Historical Sketches*, 5th ed. (London, 1885), vol. ii, p. 205.

"Ascend with me on this dazzling Whitsunday the Brocken of North Germany."—De Quincey, *Suspiria de Profundis* (Boston, 1858), p. 247.

"There had been a grand entertainment at Gaunt House on one beautiful evening in June . . ."—Thackeray, *Pendennis* (London, 1869), vol. ii, ch. vii, p. 78.

"On Sunday afternoon I accompanied her to Rydal Mount."—Emerson, *English Traits* (Boston, 1887), ch. xvii, p. 279.

"It was a wood-fire in the parlor of an old farm-house, on an April afternoon, but with the fitful gusts of a wintry snow-storm roaring in the chimney."—Nathaniel Hawthorne, *The Blithedale Romance* (Boston, 1852), ch. ii, p. 14.—"On one of those ugly nights, which we have faintly hinted at . . ."—*Id.*, *The Scarlet Letter* (Boston, 1885), ch. xi, p. 178.

"It was on a Sunday, during the time of public worship, that he was conveyed under a guard to his place of confinement."—Macaulay, *History of England* (London, 1869), vol. iii, ch. x, p. 352.

" . . . he arriv'd at Rome on a Thursday night . . ."—James Howell, *The Signorie of Venice* (London, 1651), p. 138.

To connect *of* with a single act, as in the passage quoted below, is not in accord with the prevailing literary usage of either England or America.

"I remember that in going to England a year ago, and disembarking of a dismal, sleety Sunday evening at Folkstone, the first thing that struck me was the good looks of the railway porters . . . In like manner, landing lately at Boulogne of a brilliant Sunday morning . . ."—Henry James, *Portraits of Places* (Occasional Papers).

But a *customary* act or occurrence is followed sometimes by *on* and sometimes by *of*,—much

oftener by *on* than *of* when the day, afternoon, evening, etc., is named or qualified by a defining word or phrase.

"He gets together the working men in his parish on a Monday evening, and gives them a sort of conversational lecture on useful practical matters . . ."—George Eliot, *Amos Barton*, ch. vi.—"The book Adam most often read on a Sunday morning was his large pictorial Bible . . ."—*Id.*, *Adam Bede*, ch. 21.—"It was Godfrey's custom on a Sunday afternoon to do a little contemplative farming in a leisurely walk."—*Id.*, *Silas Marner*, p. 230.

"On a summer evening he delighted to stroll down his fields as far as the allotment-grounds . . ."—T. E. Kebbel, *English Country Life* (London, 1891), p. 12.

" . . . but another pleasure I had, which, as it could be had only on a Saturday night, occasionally struggled with my love of the opera . . ."—De Quincey, *Confessions of an English Opium-Eater* (Boston, 1858), p. 77.—"This pleasure, I have said, was to be had only on a Saturday night."—*Id.*, p. 77.—" . . . to which the poor resort on a Saturday night . . ."—*Id.*, p. 78.

" . . . and it was rumoured that one of the Fellows rejoiced in seeing his parishioners play at cricket on Sunday."—F. W. Newman, *Phases of Faith*, ch. i, p. 4.

"To read the 'Voices of the Night,' in particular—those early pieces—is to be back at school again, on a Sunday, reading all alone on a summer's day, high in some tree, with a wide prospect of gardens and fields."—Andrew Lang, *Letters on Literature* (London, 1889), p. 45.

"Plaswater Weir-Mill Lock looked tranquil and pretty on an evening in the summer time."—Dickens, *Our Mutual Friend*, book iv, ch. i.

So, too, in the plural;

"On Sunday mornings I was always taken to church."—De Quincey, *Suspiria de Profundis*, p. 184.

" . . . the old wooden meeting-house in Salem, which used, on wintry Sabbaths, to be the frozen purgatory of my childhood . . ."—Nathaniel Hawthorne, *Our Old Home* (Boston, 1886), p. 83.

"The ramparts had been suffered to fall into decay, or were repaired only that the townsfolk might have a pleasant walk on summer evenings."—Macaulay, *History*, vol. i, ch. iii, p. 301.—"*The London Gazette* came out only on Mondays and Thursdays."—*Id.*, p. 404.—" . . . on fine evenings, the fiddles were in attendance, and there were morris dances on the elastic turf of the bowling green."—*Id.*, p. 360.

"They met once a week, on Monday evenings, at the Turk's Head, in Gerrard Street . . ."—Leslie and Taylor's *Life and Times of Sir Joshua Reynolds* (London, 1865), vol. i, p. 228.

"He went without dinner on Fridays . . ."—Thackeray, *Pendennis*, vol. ii, ch. xxv, p. 304.—"Except on market days there is nobody in the streets."—*Id.*, vol. i, ch. xv, p. 154.

"He [the English labourer] wears broad-cloth on Sundays, and sometimes at his work too."—E. T. Keibel, *English Country Life*, p. 170.

But *of* is also found in such relations,—though not so often as *on* :

"Pen had been standing with his back to the window, and to such a dubious light as Bury Street enjoys of a foggy January morning."—*Pendennis*, vol. i, ch. xx, p. 222.—"So Mr. Pen and Miss Laura found the society at Clavering Park an uncommonly agreeable resort of summer evenings."—*Pendennis*, vol. i, ch. xxii, p. 252.

"It was his custom of a Sunday, when this meal was over, to sit close by the fire, a volume of some dry divinity on his reading desk. . . ."—Robert Louis Stevenson, *Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde*, ch. ii.

When the day, afternoon, evenings, etc., is *not* named or qualified by a defining word or phrase, a customary act or occurrence is regularly followed by *of* :

" . . . he was rarely to be found anywhere of an evening beyond the bounds of his own parish . . ."—George Eliot, *Mr. Gilfil's Love-Story*, ch. i.—"Mr. Bates is habitually a guest in the the housekeeper's room of an evening . . ."—*Id.*, ch. iv.—" . . . seated by his fireside of an evening . . ."—*Id.*, *Essays (Worldliness and other-Worldliness)*.

" . . . cutting down branches of a night to secure himself from the wild beasts . . ."—J. H. Newman, *Historical Sketches*, vol. ii, p. 401.

" . . . the staircase and passageway were often thronged of a morning with a set of beggarly and piratical-looking scoundrels . . ."—Nathaniel Hawthorne, *Our Old Home*, p. 19.

" . . . his father was quietly reading, according to his custom when he sat at home of an evening."—Henry James, *The Reverberator*, ch. viii.

" . . . after reading pretty hard of a morning, and, I fear, not law merely, but politics and general history and literature . . ."—*Pendennis*, vol. i, ch. xxx.

" . . . he used to have two candles on his table of an evening."—William Hazlitt, *Sketches and Essays* (London, 1884), p. 373.

"His waistcoat of a morning was pale buff—of an evening, embroidered velvet."—Lytton, *The Caxtons*, vol. i, part ii, ch. ii.

And in the plural :

" . . . and here Pen was introduced to a number of gallant young fellows with spurs and mustachios, with whom he drank pale-ale of mornings, and beat the town of a night."—*Pendennis*, ch. xix.

The observance by writers of the foregoing distinctions in the use of *on* and *of* is probably seldom premeditated, and no doubt is often neglected ; but an examination of a large number of cases in a considerable variety of writing seems to show that customary usage recognizes the differences indicated. Linguistic distinctions are often blurred and confused by impressions of phrases similar in sound. Perhaps the distinctions we have been considering have been blurred, more or less, by the influence of such partitive phrases as those below.

" . . . when he and she and John, at towards nine o'clock of a winter evening, went to London . . ."—Dickens, *Our Mutual Friend*, Bk. iv, ch. xii.

"It was near nine o'clock of a moonlight evening . . ."—Nathaniel Hawthorne, *The Snow Image and other Twice-told Tales* (My Kinsman, Major Molineux).—"One afternoon of a cold winter's day, when the sun shone forth with chilly brightness . . ."—*Id.*, *The Snow-Image*.

But there is a tendency to confuse *of* and *on* apart from such an influence. It should be added that Thackeray, although cited several times above, seems to have had no discriminative rule as to *on* and *of* in cases of customary action.

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NOTES ON LYRIC POETRY.

POPULAR poems have, in all ages, suggested replies and begot the inspiration of rival work. The tournament sonnet of the later days of Queen Elizabeth is well known, and has been frequently discussed though, one may suspect, not yet exhaustively. To anyone who is desirous of learning how widely diffused such parallels are, and in how great a depth of antiquity their originals are rooted, Prof. Albert S.